



THE ROC CAIRN



— RENNELAER OUTING CLUB, INC. — 15TH ST. LOUNGE, R. P. I., TROY, NEW YORK —

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CHRISTMAS ISSUE

December 11, 1956

THEY CONTRACT!

The editor wishes to apologize for the delay between issues but distractions have been almost as multitudinous as queries such as, "So where is the Cairn?". Well here it is, just in time to present as a Christmas present.

RANDOM THOUGHTS WHILE I SIT AT 1 A.M. THINKING OF WHAT TO WRITE TO FILL UP THE VOID DEPARTMENT.

...several interesting things since last issue...spelunking trip to West Virginia during Thanksgiving, mountaineering course - lecture and field trip - next lecture in January, square dance course - two sessions with more to come, course in parliamentary procedure and haggling - every meeting, of course, appointment of trip leaders, climb up Cascade with RSOC - didn't reach top but it was fun - lost there: 1 carbide lamp, 1 ice-ax, 1 insular sock, discovery of new cave, spelunking to neighborhood caves - wet, ski rally - "Will travel anytime" list up, by order of Calhoun - PB="Hacker Extraordinary", square dances - Smith, Vassar, Skidmore, Holyoke, et. al., pinball machines travel...ROC songsheets in production via MS...article of special interest in next issue, watch for it...Winter Mountaineering School at Adirondack Loj over Christmas recess promises to be good, suggest all possible attend, list up...suggest winter mountaineering rally to provide for more informed climbers...informants report of interesting formation on top of Marcy, Calhoun seems to be tied in with it, will have to investigate this weekend.

CALHOUN'S CORNER

Communications with Calhoun seem to be extremely sporadic. He was last reported upon Marcy with something that seemed to resemble a trophy that was to have been transferred to us from Syracuse last year. Enough has been said. Calhoun, we will find you yet.

SPELUNKING (WHAT IS IT?)

-The last issue of the "Cairn" posed the question, "What is spelunking?" This somewhat lyrical description was the answer that I received. - FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, READ - ALICE IN WONDERLAND - ASSUED NOTE

Cave-crawling, hole-exploring, or to be dignified, spelunking, are words which describe a philosophy as well as an outing club activity. An incision in the earth becomes your entrance to a whole new world. You can enter and your whole frame of reference changes. Darkness becomes the rule and the torch on your head becomes the sphere of light which is the center of your universe. Your aim is to bring this mobile sphere to every portion of the underground maze.

Spelunking and caves are as varied as the trees of the woods. They range in size from the hole which goes nowhere to the cave in which OC'ers camped underground in for a full week without exploring it completely. Both these caves have their rewards. There is always the sheer exuberance you feel when coming upon an unusual or beautiful formation, and the excitement of being someplace where no one has been before. But the reward which makes a cave, no matter how well explored, nor how much a simple muddy crawlway, is the feeling that now you know this cave. For this feeling, spelunkers crawl through thick mud, wade in waist deep freezing water, and wander through the cavernous depths. You have met the challenge of the cave, given something of yourself, and the cave somehow now belongs to you.

DB

-And couldn't we say just about the same for that certain mountain, that overhung overhang, or that infernal creek?-

Special Service or "What have you?" department

The ROC, having recognized that all OC'ers have insatiable tape-worms, has initiated a survey to establish a chain of recommended eating places, a la Duncan Hines, along all the well travelled routes. Just look for the red and white sign which says, "YES".

First on our list is:

The ROC, Lean-TO
1807 7th Ave.
Troy, N.Y.

Located in the heart of picturesque Troy and at the foot of RPI's monumental Approach, the finest food is served at all hours and in unlimited quantities. The only price asked is that you clean all the dishes, pots, pans, and silverware in their well stocked sink. Continuous entertainment.

UNTIMELY SPACEWASTER

"Mildew stains must be treated when fresh, otherwise mold growth will have a chance to weaken the fiber. Wash them in hot sudsy water or spread the stain with salt and lemon juice and place it in direct sunlight." Albany Times-Union, Sept. 16, 1956

Rock Rock Rock
Here is a couple to think about.

"The Mountaineer Climbing Code"

A climbing party of three is the minimum, unless adequate support is available who have knowledge that the climb is in progress. On crevassed glaciers, two rope teams are recommended.

Carry at all times the clothing, food and equipment necessary. Rope up on all exposed places and for all glacier travel.

Keep the party together, and obey the leader or majority rule.

Never climb beyond your ability and knowledge.

Judgment will not be swayed by desire when choosing the route or turning back.

Leave the trip schedule with a responsible person.

Follow the precepts of sound mountaineering as set forth in the 'Mountaineer's Handbook' and the 'Manual of Ski Mountaineering'.

Deport ourselves at all times in a manner that will not reflect unfavorably upon our club or upon mountaineering.

TEN ESSENTIALS

EXTRA CLOTHING
EXTRA FOOD
SUNGLASSES
MAP
COMPASS

FLASHLIGHT
WATERPROOF MATCHES
CANDLE OR FIRE STARTER
FIRST AID KIT
POCKET KNIFE

The Climbing Code and the Ten Essentials should be with every climber and mountaineer, on foot and on skis, with every trip into the mountains. These two are in themselves a big lesson- hard learned by some. Safety and good judgment can never be over emphasized-let's all climb a mountain to return and be able to climb another one.

May I thank all those that participated in the rock climbing practice held last Nov. 11, and made it a success.-S.F.-

Don't forget the ADK Winter Mountaineering School-Dec 27-30, Adirondack Loj, Lake Placid, New York.- Bring extra food for the instructors and rope leaders -always hungry



PBSF

* Seattle Mountaineers

TRADING DEPARTMENT

For Sale:

1 Jungle Pack, excellent condition \$2.50
Frank Sandy

For Want:

1 pair of Ski Poles - Frank Sandy

1 pair of Ski Poles - Dwight Deal

Remember that the club will also be willing to buy your equipment if it is in good condition. More advertisements welcome. We would like to get an approximation of the number of persons who would be interested in purchasing good cold weather bags comparable to the Green Worms. A discount deal is anticipated. See Mike Smolin for further details.

FUTURE EVENTS

- Dec. 15 - Mountaineering, Mt. Marcy
- 22 - ?
- 27-30 - ADK Winter Mountaineering School, Adirondack Loj
- 30- - Adirondack Romp, Winter Mountaineering
- Jan. - - Reviews and TESTS, Laurentian Ski Trip, Midsemester
- Feb. 8 - Sno-Ski, Yale
- 23 - Dance, Mt. Holyoke
- 31 - Special Event, more later
- Mar. 15 - Dance, Smith
- April 26- IOCA Conference, Berkshires, Mt. Holyoke host

Of course the regular havoc of day ski trips, winter mountaineering, and spelunking will continue, being announced at the weekly meetings.